[The Beginnings of Greek Medical Science](http://ancienthistory.about.com/library/bl/bl_text_wsd_sec63.htm)

Throughout the city, the average Greek would have a fine physique and a very healthy body. They would have fair coloring and very regular features. Because of the amount of training the men do, their bodies would be kept in good condition and would stay that way. There would also be many old men around the city, and fewer invalids than in other societies. Though the Greeks were so admirably healthy, they were still vulnerable to illnesses, so the doctor was still an important member of society, though not as much as he was in other ages. Greek medicine and surgery were, as shown in Homer’s writings, largely practicality combined with experience and superstition. It was very important as a healer to know the prayers for Apollo and to be able to recognize the proper herbs to stop wounds from getting infected. Though Homer speaks of Asclespius, he was simply a skillful leach who was elevated to deity status. His teachings reached Athens when the physician’s art was becoming more regular, and had earned a place among the practical sciences.